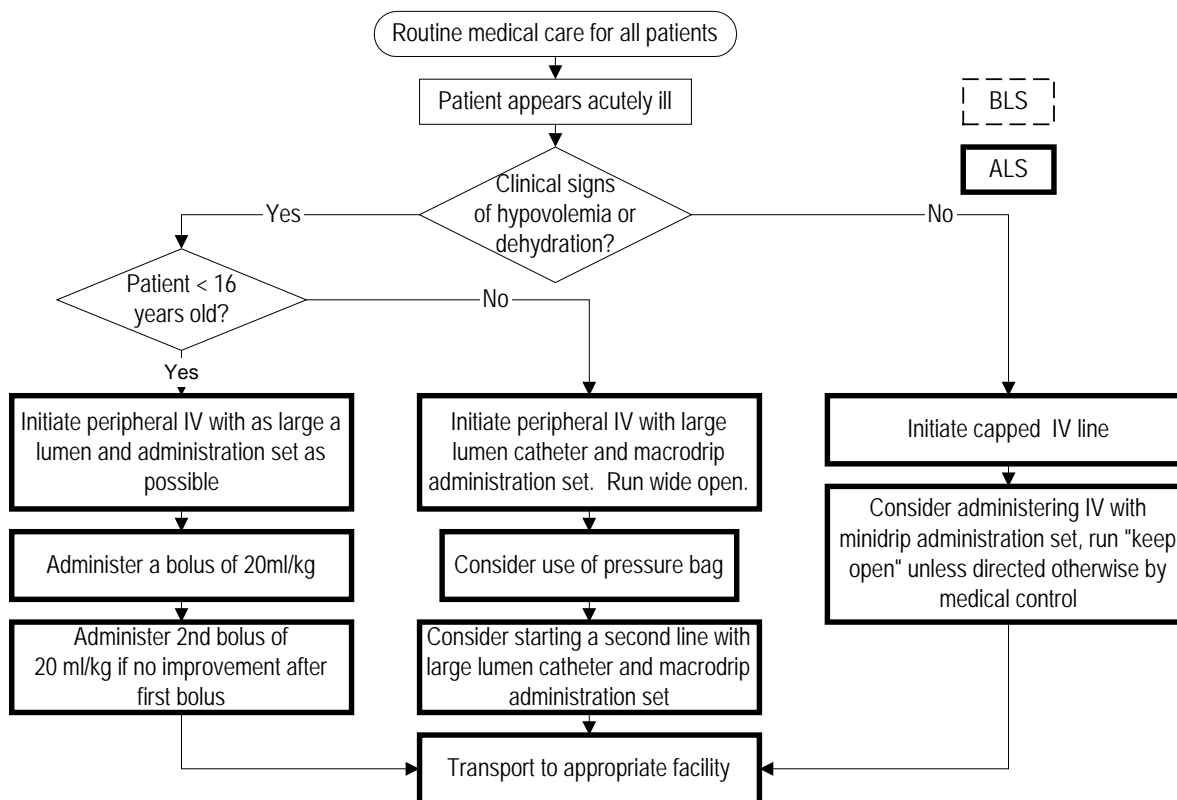


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**MILWAUKEE COUNTY EMS
MEDICAL PROTOCOL
PERIPHERAL IV LINES**

Approved by: Ronald Pirrallo, MD, MHSA
Signature:
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Notes:

- Paramedics may establish an intravenous infusion in patients who appear acutely ill, either for safety purposes during transport or prior to contact with medical control.
- IV solutions may be set up in advance and kept available as long as the administration line remains sterile. The paramedic preparing the IV will label it with the date and time it was assembled. IV solutions prepared in advance may only be kept for 24 hours and, if not used within that time period, must be discarded.
- Intravenous solutions being administered in situations of extremely cold environmental temperatures will be replaced every 15 minutes including the administration set and extension set. Warm solutions should be available in the MED unit. While the IV is running, the IV bag and line should be protected by placing in a sheltered area (e.g. wrap in a blanket).
- The only acceptable IV initiation sites are the upper extremity, lower leg and external jugular. NO femoral or central lines are to be initiated by EMS personnel.
- The use of chronic indwelling IV catheter lines with external ports (i.e. Hickman, Arrow) may be used prior to contacting medical control in immediate life threatening situations when another site cannot be obtained.
- Renal dialysis shunts may only be used if the patient is in cardiopulmonary arrest and no other IV site is available.
- For non-life threatening situations, use of an indwelling IV catheter requires permission from medical control.
- When accessing any indwelling IV line or shunt, consider enlisting the expertise of medical personnel, if present.
- If the patient has a fistula, shunt, etc., avoid using that arm altogether for IV access, except in life threatening situations
- An intraosseous line may be established in the cardiopulmonary arrest victim in whom an intravenous line cannot be initiated.
- The preferred order for administration of parenteral medications is: peripheral IV, chronic indwelling catheter with external port, IO, ETT.